

Chamber of Commerce, the Lehigh Valley Partnership, the Northampton County Industrial Development Authority, the Ben Franklin Partnership, and the Private Industry Council. He twice served as president of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, and once as chair of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Universities whose membership includes almost all of the public and private colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Mark Erickson, current NCC president, noted "Bob was a true visionary and his impact on this college, our students, faculty and staff will be felt for generations to come."

An editorial in *The Express-Times* at the time of his retirement described him as "a miracle worker." Another in *The Morning Call* credited him with making Northampton and the community better places, noting that one of his gifts was recognizing "the importance of community colleges to provide near-universal access to education beyond high school" and "how vital the community college is to economic development in its supporting region."

It is truly an honor to recognize Dr. Kopecek and his dedicated service and lasting contributions to the Northampton community.

TRIBUTE TO STEPTOE AND JOHNSON PLLC

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Steptoe and Johnson PLLC, a law firm founded in Clarksburg, West Virginia by Phillip P. Steptoe and Louis A. Johnson. Steptoe and Johnson quickly gained a reputation as one of central West Virginia's most prominent law firms, specializing in the fields of banking, insurance, litigation, mineral, and public utility law.

Since opening its first office, Steptoe and Johnson has expanded across West Virginia, with locations in Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, Wheeling, Morgantown, and Martinsburg. The firm increased their regional presence, opening offices in neighboring states, with operations in Canton and Columbus, Ohio; Meadville and Southpointe, Pennsylvania; and Lexington, Kentucky. Recently, Steptoe and Johnson established offices in Denver, Colorado and Houston, Texas.

In total, Steptoe and Johnson employs an impressive 275 attorneys and approximately 570 staff members, working in fourteen offices in six states. As Steptoe and Johnson's practice has grown throughout the years, so has their reputation, gaining national recognition as an energy firm with strengths in corporate transactions, labor and employment law and litigation.

In addition to Steptoe and Johnson's legal work, the firm also contributes substantially to the communities they serve. In December 2012, Steptoe and Johnson donated more than 100 cell phones to benefit United Way organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central West Virginia and Hope, Inc., a support group for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence. Further building on the firm's reputation as a socially responsible community member, in the past year Steptoe

and Johnson increased their pro bono work by 77%, earning them a fifth straight Kaufman Pro Bono Award from the West Virginia Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, celebrating a 100th anniversary is quite an accomplishment, and I commend Steptoe and Johnson for their many years of exemplary work and dedication to community service.

Thank you, Steptoe and Johnson. The State of West Virginia is proud of your service and looks forward to sharing another 100 years with you as an outstanding corporate citizen.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE NCAA ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Minnesota's women's ice hockey team for winning the 2013 NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Championship. This victory marks their second consecutive NCAA championship title.

The Lady Gophers finished the 2012–13 season with a perfect, unprecedented record—41 wins, 0 losses, and 0 ties. They are the first team in the 13-year history of NCAA women's ice hockey to finish the season with a perfect record.

Head Coach Brad Frost, Assistant Coach Joel Johnson, Assistant Coach Nadine Muzerall, Volunteer Goalie Coach Andy Kent, and Director of Hockey Operations Eric Bakke also deserve recognition for their hard work in helping to lead the Gophers to a winning season.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate the University of Minnesota's women's ice hockey team on their exceptional performance. Good luck next year.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we recognize this week as National Nurses Week, and celebrate the life-saving work that nurses do every single day of the year. As the first registered nurse in Congress, I know from experience that nurses play a critical role in patient care, health promotion, and disease prevention. Nurses are the most trusted professionals in the country, and it is no wonder why. Nurses have the privilege and responsibility of caring for people at their most vulnerable, and they do it with grace and commitment.

Just as nurses care for us when we are sick, we must ensure that our health system supports nurses by enabling them to do their jobs safely and effectively. Research has shown us that when nurse staffing levels increase, patient risk of complications and hos-

pital lengths of stay decrease. This, in turn, leads to cost savings.

As our health system changes to meet our future needs, nurses are leading the way. The Affordable Care Act and the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report both call for nurses to optimize their contribution to patient care.

Increased federal and state engagement is needed to ensure that America's nursing workforce remains strong in years to come. I believe we must expand nurse training programs and increase the number of nursing faculty available to teach the next generation. Only then will we begin to be able to address the national nursing shortage that could potentially jeopardize future patient access to care.

Mr. Speaker, National Nurses Week has been celebrated annually since 1991, beginning on May 6th, which is National Recognition Day for nurses, and ending on May 12th, the birthday of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize all the dedicated nurses who came before me, and all those who have come after. Supporting the nurses who care for us is simply the right thing to do, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to do just that.

IN HONOR OF ELOMBE BRATH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a living hero of Harlem and an international warrior for the African People, the great Elombe Brath. For more than a generation, Elombe, as the chairman of Patrice Lumumba Coalition (PLC), helped to coordinate hundreds of forums with the purpose of educating the masses, not only about the struggle in Africa but also about the conditions oppressed people faced all over the world.

Born in Brooklyn, NY on September 30th 1936, to parents who had immigrated to the United States from Barbados, the Caribbean Island geographically closest to the African continent, his early training of a political character was hearing his mother speak of her first cousin, Clennell Wickham who was the editor of the renowned *Herald* newspaper.

Brath's political commitment evolved in 1956 simultaneously with the struggle to eliminate "Negro" as the nomenclature of African American people. From this moment of Black consciousness it was an easy and logical step for him to create the "Black is Beautiful" campaign in 1961 following the creation of AJASS (African Jazz-Arts Society and Studios) with his brother Kwame and a cadre of other local activists in 1956.

Removing "Negro" from the lexicon, insisting on the beauty of Blackness, and refusing to accept the Eurocentric worldview, Elombe and his cohorts were in the vanguard of change as they launched the Grandassa Models and "Naturally Shows," beginning in 1961, featuring Black women in all their natural-born beauty.

All of these activities were the foundation for his total involvement in African affairs, including his association with FOPANO (Federation of Pan-African Nationalist Organizations),